

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163370

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. WE ARE CONCERNED BY CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS ABOUT PALESTINIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AS REGARDS BOTH THEIR NUMBERS AND WHETHER THEY ARE ARMED. USUN SHOULD DISCUSS THIS ON AN URGENT BASIS WITH THE UN SECRETARIAT, STRESSING OUR CONCERN THAT UNIFIL DO ALL POSSIBLE TO PROHIBIT BOTH INFILTRATION OF ARMED PALESTINIANS AND MARRYING-UP OF UNARMED PALESTINIANS WITH ARMS CACHES IN THE SOUTH.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE ISRAELIS MAY BE BLOWING THE SITUATION OUT OF PROPORTION, IN ORDER
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TO JUSTIFY THEIR OWN PROVISION OF ARMS AND OTHER SUPPORT TO CHRISTIAN UNITS. TEL AVIV SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS OUR BELIEF THAT IT IS IN ISRAEL'S OWN BEST INTEREST TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE UNIFIL'S FULL DEPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTH.

3. FOR USUN AND JERUSALEM: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING

ON AN URGENT BASIS A REPORT FROM YOU SUMMARIZING THE OVER-ALL SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. AMONG QUESTIONS WE REMAIN UNSURE OF ARE DEGREE OF HADDAD'S AND SHIDIAK'S PRESENT AUTHORITY OVER VARIOUS CHRISTIAN UNITS; NUMBERS OF PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH AND JUST WHAT THEY ARE UP TO;

DEGREE OF UNIFIL'S SUCCESS IN PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED INFILTRATION; AND UNIFIL'S PRESENT SITUATION ON THE GROUND AND PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER DEPLOYMENT. WE WERE INTERESTED, FOR EXAMPLE, TO LEARN FROM JERUSALEM 1724 THAT UNIFIL HAD OCCUPIED THREE SITES IN CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED AREA AS RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MILITIA; BUT WE ARE UNCLEAR WHAT THIS MAY SIGNIFY FOR FURTHER UNIFIL ACTIONS. VANCE

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